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CLASSIFICATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Austria (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 20 August 1948

Reduction of Strength of Werkschutz SUBJECT

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SUPPLEMENT TO

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was informed by an unidentified Werkschutz leader that the Soviets intend to make a drastic cut in the size of the Jerkschutz. The reason for the planned reduction is the high cost of maintaining this force. At present, approximately 700 men are employed in the Zistersdorf Werkschutz at an average salary of 1,000 schillings per month.

- Consequently, the Soviets plan to release all non-Communist members of the Merkschutz. For the most part, these are local boys, displaced persons, and political neutrals, who have applied for release. Formerly all Jerkschutz members signed a one-year contract with an option to serve an additional year after the expiration of the original contract. Apparently, this measure has now been dropped.
- 25X1A (Convent: This information lends some credence to a recent report from indicating that a private firm had offered to take over 25X1X an untested the quarding of some Zistersdorf installations, and that the Soviets were seriously considering accepting this offer. It is not known how many men will be affected by a reduction of the Werkschutze?

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